

- *2009 Competition Includes Honorable Mention Category Celebrating a Quadricentennial of Discovery* - Carmel, NY – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) announced today that he is inviting Hudson Valley high schools to participate in the 2009 "An Artistic Discovery," the nationwide high school art competition and exhibition conducted by members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Selected art work will be displayed in an exhibition at the Tilly Foster Farm in Putnam County, New York from May 11-30. The winning entry from the exhibition will then be transported to Washington, DC to hang on display in a corridor of the U.S. Capitol for a year alongside winning entries from around the country. "The Congressional Art Competition provides an opportunity for aspiring young artists in the Hudson Valley to gain recognition and exposure," said Congressman Hall. "This is an excellent way that Congress can help encourage the arts."

The 19th Congressional District first place winner and one guest will be invited to attend the "An Artistic Discovery" opening ceremonies in Washington, DC in June. Expenses will be paid for the winner and a guest. The runners-up will have their work displayed in Hall's Congressional offices in Carmel and Goshen. Also, in honor of the year-long celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's river journey, this year's art competition will have an honorable mention for the art piece that represents "A Quadricentennial of Discovery."

Entries are submitted by high school students from schools in New York's 19th Congressional District and will be judged by a distinguished panel of community artists with teaching or gallery experience. Congressman Hall will host an Awards Ceremony and Reception at Tilly Foster Farm on Monday, May 11, 2009 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm to honor all participants. All high school students who reside in or attend school in the 19th Congressional District are encouraged to participate.

Art work submitted must be original and can be in the form of paintings (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.), drawings (pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers), collage (must be 2 dimensional, prints (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints), mixed media, computer generated art, or photography. For more information, visit Congressman Hall's website at <http://johnhall.house.gov/congressionalartcompetition.asp>